Through a desire and a need to attach myself to something solid, I am tying myself to the translation of Hebbel's letters (those dated from France). I find both hard work and great interest in it, so that I continue this work until dinner-time.

With all my heart and all my soul I listen to this call of virtue.

Thursday

Managed somehow to catch a cold, which further complicates my restlessness; but already yesterday's short period of work has strengthened me. No one is yet informed of my return. I should like to regulate my day and decide as to the allotment of my hours as I used to do, rue de Commailles; I had a "daily routine'* pinned to the wall and made it a matter of pride not to get away from it in any way. What strength I should have had if I had not soon given myself leave! , . .

Nothing but Marcel Drouin's visit (very cordial conversation) distracted me from the translation of HebbeL

Friday

A slightly better day which I spend altogether in the little room beside the library, between a fire of wood-blocks and the little electric radiator. Translated Hebbel all morning and part of the afternoon; I finally stop, not discouraged, but more and more convinced that these letters will hardly interest ten readers and that the N.R.F. cannot be willing to publish them.

I write a few lines of the *Traite des Dioscures** which I have been carrying in my head for so many years; but it doesn't go very well either. Right now I think that it is better to keep these ideas on Greek mythology for the novel I shall write after *Les Caves.* I shall have them developed by some character, with all the slowness and complexity that is necessary. So that this work too is dropped.

Read the first chapter of *Clayhanger,* which I leave

to go back to *Captain Singleton,*[1]*

Saturday

Uncertain and painful thought. Nothing to note here, despite my application in keeping account even of the insignificant. Alone my practice of the piano and reading (*Clayhanger* and *Singleton)* save this day from oblivion.

[6] The "Treatise of the Dioscuri" does not seem ever to have been published.

[7] *The Life, Adventures, and Piracies of the Famous Captain Singleton,* by Daniel Defoe (1720).